

**ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS in Montreal, in connection with the interests of  
the British Protestant Population in Eastern Canada, under the proposed  
Union of the British American Provinces.**

*Resolutions of a large and influential Private Meeting, held in the Royal Insurance Building, on Thursday, the  
25th October, 1866, at which were present leading Gentlemen in Montreal, and Clergy of the various  
Denominations.*

JOHN REDPATH, Esq., was chosen Chairman, and T. M. TAYLOR, Esq., Secretary.

The following Resolutions were afterwards discussed, and unanimously agreed to:—

1. *Resolved*, On motion of WM. LUNN, Esq., seconded by GEORGE MOFFATT, Esq.:

That whilst preferring a Legislative to a Federal Union, it is expedient, in the interest of the English speaking Protestant population of Lower Canada, that steps should be taken, in case the Quebec Scheme is adopted, to ensure to them the promised control over the Education of their own people, which the Bill lately introduced by Solicitor General Langevin was intended to afford.

2. *Resolved*, On motion of T. M. TAYLOR, Esq., seconded by GEORGE STEPHEN, Esq.:

That it is also expedient to provide more effectual guarantees that the relative Representation now possessed by the English speaking population, as well in the Local as in the Federal Parliament, shall not be diminished.

3. *Resolved*, On motion of HON. JAMES FERRIER, seconded by Rev. JOHN BORLAND:

That we would deprecate Public Agitation on subjects calculated to rouse the national and religious sensibilities of the inhabitants of Lower Canada, and having confidence in the justice and good faith of our fellow subjects of another origin, we believe that a firm and temperate statement of our position will ensure to us those guarantees which are important to the cordial working by all classes and creeds of the new Constitution.

4. *Resolved*, On motion of Rev. Dr. JENKINS, seconded by Rev. D. H. McVICAR:

That inasmuch as the assurances recently announced as having been given, are unknown to this Meeting, the future course of action will necessarily be influenced by the character of those guarantees, and the means proposed to ensure their being carried into practical effect, it is therefore desirable that a small Committee with plenary powers be appointed. That such Committee shall specially have authority, if need be, to prepare a Memorial in the spirit of these Resolutions to the Imperial Parliament, or for such other use as they may see fit, and to take such steps for the presentation of such Memorial as they may consider best calculated to carry out the views of this Meeting. And they shall also have authority to adopt any other course of action, which, in their judgment, may best conduce to secure the foregoing objects, and that such Committee be:—Principal Dawson, Hon. James Ferrier, George Moffatt, John Redpath, Wm. Lunn, and James L. Mathewson, Esquires, with power to add to their number.

*Resolved*, That this Meeting stand adjourned at the call of the Chairman.

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE made to an Adjourned Meeting, held  
at the same place, on Saturday, 8th December, 1866.**

The Committee appointed at the Meeting held on the 25th October, now beg to report that they have had several formal sittings, in addition to informal communications, with various persons interested in the important subjects referred to them by the Resolutions under which they were named.

They had also an interview with the Honorable A. T. Galt, who communicated confidentially the conclusions at which the Government had arrived on the subject of Education. Your Committee are not at liberty to state the details of that interview, or of the arrangements, but they consider that, if carried out, they will place the Protestant Minority in a better position than they at present are in; and they would recommend that a resolution be come to by this Meeting for communication to His Excellency the Governor

General, and also to Mr. Galt, urging that the substance of the guarantees which the Government Bill of last Session was intended to provide, should be secured in the Imperial Act; or, failing that, that such other provisions, calculated to attain the same end, as are practicable, should be inserted.

Your Committee had also to consider the further, and even more important question of the future Representation of the English-speaking Minority in Lower Canada, as well in the Local as in the Federal Legislature, and other kindred questions affecting the interests of that population. They feel that if any steps were to be taken to bring about fundamental changes as regards Lower Canada, in the character of the proposed Union, as settled by the Quebec Resolutions, or even in its more material details by efforts from this country, such changes could only be effected by being powerfully urged after a clear expression of opinion by a numerous body of the people here; and it was evident to your Committee that such expression of opinion could not be obtained without much previous agitation.

The Committee believe that a Public Appeal at the present moment in the interests of the English Minority in Lower Canada, might provoke a counter agitation, by arousing the fears of their fellow-subjects of another origin, which would not only give consistency to suspicions and mutual distrust, but might endanger the measure of Union itself.

They are far from being insensible to the importance of obtaining such modifications as will secure to the English-speaking population a share in the representation proportionate to their numbers and the magnitude of the interests they possess, nor to the desirability of vesting the questions of Immigration, the Administration of the Crown Lands, and other kindred subjects in the General Government.

But, on full consideration, they incline to the belief, that to bring about such changes, they must trust rather to the statesmanlike views which they might not unreasonably expect would be entertained by the English Ministry and Parliament on these questions, than to representations of a formal and public character, in the special interests of a Minority in Lower Canada, however influential and respectable; and they feel that nothing but the certainty of success would justify their recommending public agitation here, entertaining, as they do, so strong a conviction that such a course might lead to results injurious to the general welfare.

In conclusion, your Committee believe that means should be informally adopted, to place the Members of the House of Commons, who are in a position to watch over their interests, in possession of all needful information; and they ask authority from this meeting to take such steps as they may think necessary to that end, as well as to co-operate with any public bodies, or other persons, who may contemplate a similar course of action, on any of the special questions affecting the interests of the British population of Lower Canada.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN REDPATH, *Chairman*;

JAMES L. MATHEWSON, *Secretary*.

MONTREAL, 1st December, 1866.

The following Resolutions and Memorial were afterwards unanimously adopted:—

Moved by Rev. Mr. CORDNER, seconded by T. M. TAYLOR, Esq.:

1. That this Meeting approves of the Report of the Committee now read, and that the same be adopted.

Moved by F. W. TORRANCE, Esq., seconded by Rev. JOHN BORLAND:

2. That the Draft Memorial to the Queen now submitted be approved of; that the Chairman and Secretary be authorized to sign the same on behalf of this Meeting, but that the signatures of other parties desirous of co-operating with the Memorialists, whether in this city or elsewhere, be also obtained; and that such Memorial be presented to His Excellency the Governor General for transmission to Her Majesty.

Moved by W. H. A. DAVIES, Esq., seconded by Rev. Dr. JENKINS:

That the Committee already named have full power, and that this Meeting request them to transmit to England copies of the said Memorial and of their own Report, to the end that, if need be, the views therein expressed be advocated in the Imperial Parliament, and effect given to the representations made in such Memorial.

## TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY :

The Undersigned, loyal and dutiful subjects of your Majesty, residing in Lower Canada, deeply impressed with the importance of a cordial concurrence of your Majesty's subjects of all classes in Canada in the Union of the British American Provinces, if resolved on, and while humbly expressing the hope that such Union may be made as full and complete as possible, desire respectfully to represent that further and better provisions with respect to the future Representation of the English minority in Lower Canada, ought, in justice, to be made in the Act of the Imperial Parliament; and also that certain guarantees with reference to Education in the interest of the same minority should be afforded.

That, without doubting the good faith, or questioning the just intentions of our fellow-subjects of French origin and Catholic faith, which on the contrary they have often had reason to acknowledge, your Petitioners consider that it would peril that harmony and co-operation which are so much needed for the successful working of the Union, if any large minority of Her Majesty's subjects were made dependent on the forbearance of the majority, instead of having their Rights secured by Legislative enactment.

Your Petitioners would represent that the English-speaking minority in Lower Canada number nearly One-Fourth of the population of that part of the Province.

That the total number of Representatives in the Local Parliament of that Province is proposed to be sixty-five, of which your Petitioners should be entitled to return, as they now do, nearly one-fourth. They therefore pray that, as regards the interference in future by the Local Legislature in the electoral limits now existing, or as regards any future increase in the number of Representatives, such provision be made in the Act of Union as shall secure to the British minority the same relative representation they now possess, as well in the Federal as in the Local Legislature.

On the subject of Education your Petitioners would represent that, by the Resolutions as agreed to at the Conference at Quebec, it is provided that the Local Legislature shall have power to make laws respecting the following subjects, viz., among others, Education:—"Saving the rights and privileges which the Protestant or Catholic minority in both Canadas may possess as to their denominational schools, at the time when the Union goes into operation."

Your Petitioners would respectfully represent, that previous to the adoption of these Resolutions by the Legislature of Canada, it was distinctly understood, and a pledge was given, that before the Union of the Provinces should have actually taken place, an Act would be passed securing to the Protestant Lower Canada the control of the education of the children of their own race and religion: and that the object of a Bill introduced by the Ministry of the day in the last session of the Canadian Legislature.

That circumstances to which it is unnecessary here specially to refer, led to the withdrawal of the said Bill, and your Petitioners are thereby deprived of the guarantees which its passage would have afforded.

That these guarantees may briefly be stated to be:

First,—That all direct taxes for the support of schools, paid by Protestants, unless otherwise designated by themselves, should be applied to Protestant, or non-denominational, education; and that all public money given for the same purpose should be divided between Protestants and Roman Catholics, in proportion to population.

Second,—That suitable and adequate provision should be made for the protection of the educational interests of Protestants, in the management of educational funds, the establishment and proper classification and maintenance of schools and institutions of superior education, and generally in the administration of educational affairs.

Your Petitioners desire further to represent that they consider it to be of the utmost moment, that the important questions of immigration and the administration of the Crown Lands should be vested exclusively in the General Government, instead of being left within the control of the Local Legislature.

They, therefore, humbly pray, that in any measure to be submitted to the Imperial Parliament, such provision may be made in reference to the foregoing subjects as shall give effect to the prayers of your Petitioners.

And as in duty bound your Petitioners will ever pray.

MONTREAL, 1st December, 1866.